



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 AT SHAVINGTON ACADEMY**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor R Squirrell – Chairman  
Councillor Stefan Pyra -Vice Chairman  
Councillor Andy Pennance  
Councillor Margaret Simon  
Councillor Maurice Simon  
Councillor Brian Silvester

**In Attendance:**

Sue Togay – Clerk, CEC Councillor Sarah Pochin, PC Ollie Cross (part meeting).

**66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor Chris Flaherty.

**67. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Bob Squirrell ref request for donation from St Mary's Church.

**68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**69. MATTERS ARISING:**

- Wistaston to Rope traffic signage on the bridge was obscured. This had been originally reported by The Chair 6 months ago. CEC Councillor Pochin to follow up with Highways.

**70. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

An oak tree on Oak Bank Avenue had now been removed. Discussions took place with regard to identifying trees in the Parish and obtaining TPO's on them. Work had been previously done in the past by Councillor Pennance and it was felt that we should arrange a ward walk with the relevant CEC Officer (Gary Newstone). Councillor Pochin would organise this.

**71. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Sarah Pochin gave feedback on the following:

- **Berkeley Academy** Drop Off Car Park was now under construction and should be finished by Christmas. Councillors mentioned that in relation to the site, the levels were high and water was therefore running off plus the gates were not closing.
- **Laidon Avenue/Rope Bank** - road surface repairs will take place post the completion of the car park.
- **Shavington Academy** – A representative of the Skill & Growth Company now has an appointment to see the Vice Head ref career's advice.
- **Cheshire East Council Budget** now out for consultation.
- **Homes Bonus** - this revenue is collected by government to the LA who then uses it as it sees fit. For the first time this amount will go to communities where they are built. CEC need to be mindful of how this income would be spent.
- **Wood Burners** – Councillor Pochin had several enquiries in relation to this and is seeking advice from Planning and Environmental Health. Councillors advised that Rope was not a 'Smokeless Zone'.
- **Muddy Area, Crofters Close Near New Life Church** – Councillor Pochin had met with Councillor Flaherty in relation to this pathed area. It was felt that it did not necessitate Highways involvement.
- **Defibrillators** – Councillor Pochin urged the Council to consider supplying one. The Chair suggested we speak to Berkeley Academy as a suitable site.

**73. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

**Rope Lane Nursery** – water was again lying on the road and it would appear the gullies may again be blocked. Councillor Pochin to follow up.

**Street Lighting** – CEC Highways were now upgrading to LED and will give a more white and focussed light.

**Road Surface Improvements** – Laidon Ave and Rope Bank would be completed first and then other identified areas such as Bankfield Avenue and Wisterdale Close.



#### **74. POLICING MATTERS**

PC Ollie Cross ran through the recent 'Beat Report'. He reported that there was no crime or ASB of significance in the Parish. Discussions took place regarding the present and future presence of PCSO's in the Parish. Rope had also still not received the information it had requested for several months even though Sergeant Snowdon had been contacted in October to provide. PC Cross requested that this email is forwarded and he will follow up.

#### **75. PLANNING MATTERS:**

**Strategic Matters** – a 5-year housing supply was now in place however there was still need to be vigilant as planning applications were being proposed in the Green Gap.

**Crewe Masterplan Consultation** – this was very general and would affect us as residents of the area. HS2 potential Hub Station would be an important factor. A Constellation Partnership consisting of representation from Crewe, Stafford, Stoke, Cheshire West was in place. There is an enormous amount of work to be done in relation to this major project for the area.

#### **Local Matters**

Neighbourhood Plans had been produced for Wistaston or Willaston.

A planning application had been received for the barns on Rope Hall Lane which would be circulated

#### **76. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

**WSLA Meeting** – Councillor Margaret Simon reported back on the present situation. It had completed work on the new extension and was now trying to regroup and encourage new members. All councillors were invited to consider membership and information cards were available to encourage those in the community.

**Remembrance Services** – The Chair had attended both the St Mary's and Crewe services and laid wreaths on behalf of the Parish. The St Mary's War Memorial Project is still underway and the PCC is chasing up with architects.

The Clerk had attended the Nantwich Remembrance Service and noticed the 'Rope Window Plaque' had not been replaced after church refurbishment. The Clerk would contact the Church to have reinstated.

#### **77. CLERK'S REPORT:**

**General Correspondence** - All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors electronically.

#### **78. FINANCE**

##### **A. Requests for Financial Assistance:**

1. A request had been received from St Mary's Wistaston for a donation to the upkeep of the graveyard.
2. A request had been received from 35<sup>th</sup> South West Cheshire (Wistaston) Scout Group for a donation toward their new scout Hut.
3. Shavington Academy Rope School Prize – A request had been received with regard to the annual school prize giving and the Parish contribution to the annual Rope School Prize.
4. Councillor Margaret Simon had been approached with regard to a donation towards a disability access pathway at Wistaston Bowling Club - It was requested that they provide the Council with a formal request for consideration at the next meeting.

##### **B. Payments**

##### **Section 137 Payments:**

1. Resolved: That a donation of £500 be made to St Mary's Church towards upkeep of the graveyard.
2. Resolved: That a donation of £200 be made to 35<sup>th</sup> SW Cheshire (Wistaston) Scout Group towards their new scout hut.
3. Resolved: That a donation of £50.00 be made to Shavington Academy for the Rope School Prize.

##### **General Payments:**

**RESOLVED:** That the following payments be made:

£268.17	S Togay – Clerk's Salary
£197.40	Shavington Academy Room Hire 2018.
£156.00	BDO External Auditors
£3973.00	Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner (PCSO Contribution)
£67.04	HMRC

Rope Parish Council Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



**C. Audit of Rope PC Accounts**

**Audit 2016/2017**

The final stage of the Audit was now completed and a report provided by BDO, the external Auditors. Two minor issues were reported with regard to the rounding up of amounts to the nearest pound and not placing a dash in one of the Annual Return Form Boxes.

Resolved: That Rope PC accepted the report of the external auditors for the Financial Year 2016/2017 which was now completed for the year.

**Audit 2017/2018.**

Notification had been given with regard to changes in the Audit Procedure for 2017/2018 Financial Year. A new external auditor is appointed for the next 5 years and Annual Governance and Accountability Return Forms would be sent electronically by the appointed auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP for Cheshire) at the end of the financial year. The Annual Return is now to be known as the 'Annual Governance and Accountability Return' and will need to be completed in accordance with 'proper practices' as set out in 'Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, a Practitioners Guide'.

**D. Consideration Of Precept 2018/2019**

Discussions took place with regard to the Precept Request for 2018/2019. A financial projection had been provided by the Clerk in order for The Chair to present a report to all Councillors for consideration. One of the main issues was because of the Council's decision not to fund a PCSO for the Year 2018/2019.

Resolved: Rope Parish Council agreed to request a precept amount of £6,396 which would mean a 50% reduction for the parishioners of Rope.

**For Information**

Future Dates of Rope PC Meetings:

Monday 15th January  
Monday 19th March  
Monday 21st May  
Monday 16th July  
Monday 17th September  
Monday 19th November